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Customer No. 28596 Attorney Docket No. MI/275

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Hiroyasu Kikukawa

Serial No.: To Be Assigned

Filed: (Simultaneously Herewith)

For: Elastic Member, Toner Fixing Element and)

Device, and Method For Manufacturing

Elastic Member

Mail Stop Patent Application Commissioner for Patents P. O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 Group Art Unit: Examiner:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service of the United States Postal Service in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, with an Express Mail Label, bearing the number ED823606492US.

Suzanne M. Hearn

August 29, 2006 (date of mailing document)

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R §1.56 and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.97-1.98, information relating to the above-identified application is hereby disclosed. Inclusion of information in this statement is not to be construed as an admission that this information is material as that term is defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

In accordance with §1.97(b), since this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed either within three months of the filing date of the above-identified application, within three months of the date of entry into the national stage of the above-identified application as set forth in §1.491, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits of the above-identified application, no additional fee is required.

Copies of the non-U.S. patent references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are enclosed herewith.

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Newark, DE 19714-9206

(302) 738-4880

Date: August 29, 2006

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